Amendment to the Specification:

Page 3, Cancel - line 13 and line 14.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 - is a flow chart of the total voting system.

Figure 2 - is a flow diagram of the start-up of the voting system.

Figure 3 - is a flow diagram of the election and precinct setup.

Figure 4 - is a flow chart showing the summary of the voting with and without a poll worker station.

Figure 5 - is a depiction of the first page of a ballot.

Figure 6 - is a flow chart of the voting procedure with this invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The voting system uses either single or multiple voting stations, each station having at least one voting device which may be stored in a transport case. Each transport case or unit will have numbered seals that will be checked out to particular precincts for use with voting stations.

Once the poll workers arrive at the polling place with the voting stations they will remove the voting unit or units from the transport cases and place the voting stations or units inside each voting booth. The voting station comprises a computer with program graphical unit including a user interface for displaying ballots and other information the requisite computer programs for recording are within the unit.

Each voting station may have its own power source or there may be a single source for several stations and each voting station requires at least one election security card which is normally provided by the election authority in a sealed security envelope. Poll workers must insert the election security card in each voting device to permit operation.

Once the power has been connected to the voting station and the election security cards installed the power may be turned on for each voting station. When the voting stations or devices are turned on the units will work for a short period of time then displays the number of devices that are being connected in the precinct for confirmation. Once this question is answered, the units will work for a short period of time. Figure 2 is the flow chart for starting

the voting system including one or more voter stations this includes checking for connected machine 13, and establish storage redundancy, 15.

The screen will next read press here to continue as host. One voting station should then be designated as the host unit or as the poll official station to control all the voting stations.

The host unit will then display on the screen the date and election being held at the time and in this jurisdiction. This display will give the poll worker an opportunity to say whether or not this information is correct.

Once the host unit is selected and in charge the flow chart of Figure 3 illustrates the steps necessary to verify and start up the voting station or stations. The poll worker on the host unit has before it on the screen the presentation to enter the precinct code and password 22. This precinct code and password are provide in a secured envelope by the election authority. When the precinct number and password are entered, the precinct name and active ballot styles will appear in the proper boxes on the screen. The poll worker will confirm this information with the information in the security envelope. If the information agrees it will be accepted on the screen. Then the next step is 23 ie. to secure the voting devices for poll workers assigned to work in the given precinct or polling place. The name, initials and numeric password (up to six digits) will be entered into the system. Each poll worker will enter his or her name, initials and the numeric password which may be any number the poll worker chooses. An internal operations log is maintained in the program for election validation if required.

Before taking any election votes the poll workers can vote a series of pre-selected ballot configurations. These pre-election tests will verify that the voting devices are tabulating properly. At the conclusion of the pre-test the results of the pre-test are printed out and the poll workers may compare them to the pre-set documentation provided by the election authority in the security envelope. If the numbers do not match, the program resets to zero, and the test is repeated.

In all cases the program resets the counter to zero before voting begins. After voting has begun and shut down occurs, any vote is maintained upon restarting. The poll workers will then move to the next step in the set up process and activate the printer which will automatically print out the zero report. The zero report will be signed and the pre-election report may be signed by the poll workers and placed in a container specified by the election office. At this point, the poll workers will turn off the printer if correct the poll workers then secure numbered seals also

provided by the election authority to the back-lock mechanism on each voting station. The poll workers will record on an affidavit provided by the election authority the numbers from the seals and the devices to which each was secured, and we are now ready to begin live elections.

In addition, if required, the poll official station can be programmed to verify fingerprints, voiceprints, eyeprint information, capture fingerprint, voiceprint or eyeprint information.

Once the voter has been authorized the voter will be assigned to a voting booth where normally the openings of the voting booth are turned away from the poll workers station. In the voting booth the poll worker will activate a ballot on the voting device for the individual by keying in an authorization code. In the case of split precincts, a ballot style choice and an authorization code both would be required. Flow chart of Figure 4 shows the flow chart for voting both with and without a poll worker station.

When accept is pressed, the first page of the actual ballot will appear on the screen. If reject is pressed the ballot is rejected and the poll worker must reconfirm the voters ballot style by pressing the correct ballot style and rekeying the authorization code. The identical picture is displayed again for the voter to choose and after accepting the voter can now begin voting.

The graphical interface as depicted on the screen of this invention provides continued assistance during the entire voting process. The first screen will normally provide instructions in the use of this system and subsequent screen will lead voters through each race and page. Figure 5 is an illustration representing page one of four ballot pages on screens.

The flow chart in Figure 6 shows some of the choices that may be displayed and permitted, such as multilingual where the voter selects the language. Other choices may be programmed in or not depending upon the original request for programming. The voter is in complete control of the ballots and the speed with which the pages are turned. The voter may touch previous page to return the ballot to check and/or change a vote or to review the ballot at the end. At this point the screen shows "touch here" to cast ballot now. This is the final step. Prior to casting the ballot the voter may touch review to page through their ballot choices and make changes or they can cast the ballot at any time. When "here" is touched the voting is completed and the selections of voter are recorded.

However, if the voter touches "void ballot" a screen will appear telling the voter to notify the poll worker. The poll worker will then reauthorize by keying in the proper authorization code and touch release. The voter may then begin the voting process again.

At the end of the day two poll workers will be required to close the poll. The closing procedures are begun on the same screen as the voter authorization was begun. One poll worker records on separate records provided by election authority the number of votes cast recorded on each voting device by the public counter. Poll worker will enter his/her authorization code on the keypad of voting device number one ie. the "host voting device' and the touch activate. The poll workers must not activate a ballot style when closing the polls. At this time casting votes is completed for that election. The poll workers will then turn on the printer power switch. A second poll worker will then key in an authorization code, touch "here to close" which will close out the use of the voting devices or stations.

The total ballots cast for each voting device will appear on the screen with grand totals for uses of the voting machines and the ballot styles. These totals must agree as well with the totals of the public counter on each device. If these totals match a poll worker will touch yes. When the results are accepted ie. the totals match they will automatically be printed out by the printer. The poll workers will then verify that the printed results match the screen totals or results and then sign a certification sheet to that effect.

At this time a post election test which is the same as the pre-election test may be run. The post election test will be run if required by the election authority however it would always behoove the poll workers to ensure authenticity by running the post election test.

After the post election test confirms that the unit was working all the time there may be an electronic transmission of the election reports to any location. It would be necessary to follow to the instructions for uploading election data via modem to a communications server.

The election devices or the voting stations should then be turned off. This may be accomplished automatically or by pressing the start icon and the normal procedures for shut down of the computer.

The poll workers remove the security cards from each voting device and place them in the security envelope along with the printed results. At this time if the election authorities have so deemed, poll workers my post the printed results form the precinct and my transfer the results

from the printouts to sheets provided by the election authority. Any results sheets could be posted on the door of the polling place or elsewhere as required by law.

Having described the preferred embodiment, other features of the present invention will undoubtedly occur to those versed in the art, as will numerous modifications and alternations in the embodiments of the invention illustrated, all of which may be achieved without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

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In all cases the program resets the counter to zero before voting begins. After voting has begun and shut down occurs, any vote is maintained upon restarting. The poll workers will then move to the next step in the set up process and activate the printer which will automatically print out the zero report. The zero report will be signed and the pre-election report may be signed by the poll workers and placed in a container specified by the election office. At this point, the poll

workers will turn off the printer if correct the poll workers then secure numbered seals also provided by the election authority to the back-lock mechanism on each voting station. The poll workers will record on an affidavit provided by the election authority the numbers from the seals and the devices to which each was secured, and we are now ready to begin live elections.

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[[The voter will confirm the appropriate selection of ballot style and/or party or reject as depicted in Figure 7 the ballot style and the political party selection.]]

When accept is pressed, the first page of the actual ballot will appear on the screen. If reject is pressed the ballot is rejected and the poll worker must reconfirm the voters ballot style by pressing the correct ballot style and rekeying the authorization code. The identical picture is displayed again for the voter to choose and after accepting the voter can now begin voting.

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